



Joint Information Center (JIC)

NEWS RELEASE

June 21, 2010, 2 p.m. CDT

CONTACT

(402) 471-7210 or (402) 471-7211

nema.jic@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

(Lincoln, Neb.) – Flood response efforts have expanded to include communities in Cass County. Communities affected include: Avoca, Nehawka, Union and Weeping Water. Power lines were reported down in Avoca. The National Weather Service noted winds of 120 mph in an EF2 tornado through the town of Superior resulting in significant tree damage as well as damage to homes and businesses.

Weeping Water Creek in Union broke a record flood stage last night at 32.67 feet. The previous record was 31 feet. The Elkhorn River near West Point is just above flood stage at 12.88 and it's just below flood stage at Pilger.

The Missouri River is above flood stage at Rulo and Brownville. Flood stage is 17 feet at Rulo and according to the National Weather Service it was running at 25 feet at 10:30 this morning.

The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) and the Joint Information Center (JIC) are continuing to be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, the SEOC will be staffed through the night to monitor weather-related activities.

Flood Hotline

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, **(888) 656-6045**, is staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice.

Road Closures

Call 511 or "know before you go" at www.511nebraska.org for up-to-the minute road condition information

Closed Roads Due to Flooding

Highway 275 Scribner to West Point

Highway 32 at Highway 275
Highway 34 Nehawka to Highway 75
Highway 136 east of Auburn
Highway 159 Falls City to Rulo Bridge (closed at bridge) is signed for CLOSED
ROADS south into Missouri

Closed Bridges Due to Flooding

Highway 20 Page to Inman
Highway L45B Ewing
Highway 96 Calamus Reservoir
Highway 183 Taylor

Assessment Teams

Damage assessment teams *are* on the road this week. Team members include representatives from FEMA, NEMA, public health, behavioral health and the Small Business Administration.

Behavioral Health Hotline

Many areas of Nebraska are recovering from storms and floods. The heroic phase of disaster response (sandbagging and people pulling together) is often followed by a period of disillusionment. (Disappointment with aid and coping with clean up.) Reconstruction takes time and can be stressful. For confidential assistance, please call the Nebraska Rural Response HOTLINE at (800) 464-0258

Fire safety

The State Fire Marshal would like to remind citizens that if your power is out and you need to use a generator. Before you use your generator, be sure your generator has been tested and approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits. Also, continue to be cautious whenever there's a threat of lightning.

Comfort Stations

Northeast Nebraska:

The American Red Cross is continuing to operate two comfort stations today Monday, June 21
from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Norfolk City Auditorium, 127 N. First St., Norfolk

Elkhorn Middle School, 3200 N. 207th Plaza. Elkhorn.

The comfort shelters will be offering meals, showers, snacks and cool down from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Southeast Nebraska:

A Red Cross shelter has been opened in Nehawka,

Conestoga Middle School, 515 Maple Ave., Nehawka

This shelter will provide food and shelter for those affected by the recent flooding

Call 211 (a human services helpline) to find out what resources are available. Most of the state can access 211 now, or they can call (402) 444-6666.

Flood

Currently there are no flash flood watches in effect in Nebraska

Weather

There continues to be an increased risk for severe weather across the entire state. Additional weather information can be found at www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com.

River Levels

Check out <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/> for river-related information.

Municipal Water Supplies

Water testing – Homeowners can order kits from the State Lab by calling (402) 471-3935 and request the Colilert test kit (\$10) which will test for Coliform and E.coli. The homeowner needs to collect the sample and return it to the state lab within 30 hours of sample collection. Local health departments are also a good resource. Remember, if your drinking water looks, tastes or smells odd, test it. Even if the water is okay the first time, it should be tested again to make sure bacteria hasn't permeated later.

Insurance

The Nebraska Department of Insurance has a flood insurance claims guide available on their website. Also, the Department has a Consumer Affairs Division available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., by calling (877) 564-7323 with any insurance-related questions.

Farmers should report flood losses to the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

www.fsa.usda.gov

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, **(888) 656-6045**, is staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice.

The Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at www.dhhs.ne.gov/SevereStorms.

###

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:

Nebraska Joint Information Center, 1800 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, 68503.

*For more information call: **(402) 471-7210 or (402) 471-7211.***

*Access information on flooding in Nebraska
on the DHHS Twitter and Facebook pages. Click links below:*

<http://twitter.com/NebraskaDHHS>

<http://www.facebook.com> search "Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services"